

# U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY CIVIL AIR PATROL

## FULLERTON COMPOSITE SQUADRON 56

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FULLERTON, CA – At an awards banquet in Fullerton, California, members of the Civil Air Patrol Fullerton Composite Squadron were recognized for their accomplishments and dedication to Civil Air Patrol during the previous year.

“We have several members that have put in long hours of very hard work with the Civil Air Patrol,” said Maj. David Boehm, Squadron 56 Commander. “They are all very deserving of the awards they have received,” Boehm said.

Two cadets received recognition for their accomplishments during the past year. Cadet Staff Sgt. David Stateler was recognized for completing all the requirements of Phase I of the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. Stateler received the Wright Brothers award and was also promoted to the grade of Cadet Tech. Sgt.

Cadet Lisa Chung was selected as the Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the year for Squadron 56. Boehm, Capt. Dan Gwaltney, and Lt. Col. Virginia Nelson, Deputy California Wing Commander, presented this award.

“The air force values CAP and recognizes the training of the cadet program,” Nelson said. “The Air Force has reaffirmed its support and belief in the cadet program,” said Nelson.

Gwaltney was named the Squadron 56 Senior Member of the year. During the past year, the squadrons’ cadet program has grown considerably under Gwaltneys leadership and guidance. Gwaltney, himself a former Civil Air Patrol cadet and currently the Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets, has been an outstanding role model for the cadets of squadron 56.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chris Storey received the Squadron 56 Ground Team Member of the year award. In addition to participating in missions as a Ground Team and Urban Direction Finding team member, Storey has conducted classes for Squadron 56 on emergency services, radio direction finding, and other aspects of emergency field operations.

Boehm presented a Commander's Commendation to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Steve Karl, of the Santiago Composite Squadron 68. This award recognized the many hours of aerospace education assistance Karl provided to the cadets of Squadron 56. Karl conducted the Civil Air Patrol model rocketry program over several weeks, allowing the cadets of Squadron 56 to earn their model

rocketry badges while learning about the science and physics of rocket propulsion and space flight.

Boehm also presented a Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeff Harabedian. Harabedian, an aerospace engineer for Boeing and a private pilot, is the squadrons' Aerospace Education Officer and has presented many interesting aerospace presentations to the cadets.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Roger Woodcock received a Certificate of Appreciation. Woodcock serves as the Deputy Commander for Seniors and has unselfishly devoted many hours during the past year to managing the Senior Member portion of Squadron 56. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Marion Rosenberg also received a Certificate of Appreciation for her support to the cadet Aerospace Education program.

Squadron 56 moved to a new permanent home at Fullerton Airport during the past year and has changed its name. "The squadron has created a new identity for itself," Boehm said. Boehm officially announced the name change of the squadron from its original name of North Orange County Composite Squadron to the Fullerton Composite squadron." In a year and a half Squadron 56 has achieved many important accomplishments in creating a new Civil Air Patrol Squadron," Boehm said.

The new squadron identity also includes a new cadet color guard. The color guard is under the leadership of Cadet Master Sgt. Natasha Marakowski who also serves as senior flag bearer. Cadet Senior Airman Jeffrey Rogers is the junior flag bearer, and Cadet Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Justine Gamboa and Micah Gamboa are the guards. The awards banquet was their first public performance and was closely watched by 29 members of Squadron 56, their families, and several invited guests.

In recognizing the outstanding contributions and volunteer spirit of the members of Squadron 56 Nelson, herself a former cadet of Squadron 56, reminded everyone that a volunteer is someone who believes one person can make a difference and is willing to prove it. "Be proud that you are a volunteer, you are making a difference in your community and the nation" said Nelson.

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